

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 26, 1972

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 176
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 O Father, we humbly ask your forgiveness
 for our sins both individual and corporate.
 We realize that much of our lives are spent
 in doing the things of this world and often
 we are led astray from your ways. Grant us
 the desire to do the right, and the ability
 to resist the wrong. Strengthen our resolve
 to be your children in all things, and may
 we learn to live for you. May we seek to
 follow our King, and to again experience the
 joy of His coming. In His name we pray. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Revelation 21:1-8
 *The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem (Trinity)
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 182
 The Sermon----"The King Is Coming!"
 The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 88
 *The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible study Wednesday Nov. 29th at 7:30 PM
 in Duncannon.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Men's Breakfast to kick off Key 73 as well
 as the 1st Sunday of Advent is planned for
 Sunday Dec. 3rd at 7:00 AM at Martha's
 Restaurant. Please let the pastor know
 today if you are going.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we will meet at the church at 3:00 PM
 to make advent wreaths. Come join in the
 fun and bring the family and some greens.

Chancel Committee meeting Thursday Nov. 30th
 at 8:00 PM.

Duncannon Council of Churches meeting Friday
 Dec. 1st at 7:30 PM at the Church of God.

Church World Service Clothing Drive, Dec.
 11th. Clothing needed: Men's clothing, no
 shoes & no overcoats; Children's clothing,
 up to size 12; Money for blankets.

No YOUTH

BIBLE READINGS For 73

"The King Is Coming!"

ADVENT REVEL.
ADVENT

Text: Revelation 21:7 "He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

Each week we seem to be involved in a Sunday that has more than one emphasis, and this week is no exception. This week is the Sunday before the First Sunday of Advent and is the Sunday that is to place ~~and~~ an emphasis on Key 73. So once again we must try to make a dual role serve our needs.

I suppose we are all aware that Advent or the season of Advent is the time in which we reflect upon the coming of the Christ Child and how we must prepare our hearts for His coming. This is the first part of our emphasis today. Perhaps not all of us have heard of Key 73 and what it is and what it means. Therefore we must take a look at it so that all of us are aware of what it is and what is involved with it. This will not be the last you will hear of it either, since both of our churches will be involved in the community, working with the other churches and working separately to be about the work of this North American task for 1973.

The word or term Key 73 comes from the fact that several years ago a group of churchmen met in Key West Florida and started to formulate a plan whereby the North American continent would hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ from one end of it to the other. From North to South from East to West the message is to be carried and it is to be carried by any and all people who are concerned with those who are outside of the church.

The group of ~~key~~ churchmen formulated the plans and designated 1973 as the year when these plans were to become operational. The start of this program is or was to begin, whichever the case may be, with Thanksgiving in some areas, depending on those co-operating, and will begin Next week the First Sunday of Advent in almost all areas.

Now if some of you have been thinking that this sounds somewhat like an emphasis that smacks of Billy Graham and an Evangelistic approach, then you are absolutely correct. The only thing that needs to be said is that Billy Graham is not sponsoring this, but he does believe in it whole-heartedly. I wish we could say the same for the United Church of Christ. There are approximately 130 denominations who will participate in this ~~venture~~ venture, and unfortunately the United Church of Christ in its entirety ~~is~~ is not one of them. If you want the most honest reason that I can give you for our denominations lack of complete participation, the answer lies with the president of our Church Dr. Robert Moss. When asked if we would participate he remarked in these words, (this is not the exact word for word quotation, but it ~~is~~ covers the answer that I read,) ~~not being harsh~~ He said, "We do not wish to participate because it smacks too much of Billy Graham."

Now I am not being unduly harsh or critical when I say I am opposed to his answer, because when you look at the roster of those congregations that are participating, you will find very many that are not very active in active Evangelism as we know it. The head of this Key 73 program is a Lutheran pastor of the Missouri Synod, and we know the Lutheran Church is a sister church of ours in form of worship and in many others ways. So if it is good enough for the Lutherans to become involved in, then why cant the UCC? But our Conference is not as blind as the National leadership, fortunately and they have sent out information to our churches in the Penn Central area and we are free to become involved if we so desire.

God has a message for us to deliver. This message is that God loves the World so much that He forgives all our sins through His Son Jesus Christ. The message is love and Forgiveness. And that is what he wants delivered, by us. A message of Love and Forgiveness, delivered by people who show this love and forgiveness. You and I as Christians are to be given this unique task this year. Actually it is our task all

of our lives, but it is to be a concentrated effort by all this year. Now this is not an ecumenical movement, it is a program that says, "Yes, our task as Christians is to deliver to the non-Christian the message of God's love and forgiveness."

Whatever effort is expended by any individual in any congregation is to be supplemented by the use of radio and television. So when I say you will not be hearing about Key 73 once I mean it. The first national attention will be given with a nationwide television special to be shown on January 6th the first Saturday of January. So mark that date down. But from now until then, the individual churches will be gearing up to get the program rolling in each community. So please start gearing your hearts and minds to become involved in this program ~~if~~ as our churches will be participating and your help will be needed. We will all need to pray about this and work with it, because at hopefully at last, we will be seeking to fulfill our task as Christian churches and Christian individuals.

The second emphasis this morning is also tied up in this Key 73, but it is also tied up with Advent. In fact the Scripture for this morning, could also be used for a sermon devoted to the thought or belief in the Second Coming of Christ. Now this morning I am not going to cover that aspect, and ~~by~~ by not covering it, I do not mean to imply that I do not believe in it, or do not think it is important. My reason for omitting that aspect is simply because I want to focus on the Advent as it applies to Key 73.

In our Scripture we read a verse which states, "He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son." This verse could imply several things and perhaps it does. But what it implies to me is the Son Jesus Christ who came into the world and who lived and suffered and died for mankind. We can find this verse or ~~a paraphrasing of it~~ similar usage of words in three different places in the Bible. First we find it in Genesis 17:7, where God speaks to

Abraham and says, "And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout ^{their} ~~your~~ generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you." Then secondly he made the promise to the son who was to inherit David's kingdom in 2 Samuel 7:14, "I will be his father and he shall be my Son." And thirdly it is found in one of the Psalms, Psalm 89:27 and this verse is thought to be the promise of the Messiah, it states, "And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."

Now in each of these we see the reference to the Son. In Genesis it is a promise of God to the descendants of Abraham. To the son of David, and this son was Solomon. But if we read the rest of this story that Nathan relates to David, we can see so many parallels to the Messiah that we must conclude that God could very easily have been foretelling of Jesus Christ. And the third promise in the Psalms is indeed the Messianic promise.

Each instance we can see the promise of the King. So when we try to place all of this in context and to take a prevue look at Key 73 as well as the start of Advent we can see that we are talking about the King coming. Key 73 is the program that will be preparing the way so that the King can come a gain. Advent is the program that prepares us individually for the coming of the King into our lives personally. So we cannot actually separate one from the other.

What prompted my thoughts along these lines is a Gospel song that speaks of the King Coming, and it is entitled simply, "The King Is Coming." This song has to do with the second coming of Jesus Christ, but perhaps it could very serve as our marching song as we strive to commit our churches and ourselves into this Key 73 program and into the season of Advent 1972.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.